

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /083 W
-----120385 020128Z /75

R 301403Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1521
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, ICRC, AR
SUBJECT: FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ICRC PROGRAM IN ARGENTINA

1. ICRC GENERAL DELEGATE FOR LATIN AMERICA, SERGIO NESSI, TOLD HA DEP. ASST. SEC. SIEVERTS JUNE 29 THAT ICRC ABOUT TO ISSUE APPEAL TO GOVERNMENTS AND NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES FOR \$1.3 MILLION (2.4 MILLION SWISS FRANCS) TO SUPPORT THEIR PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN ARGENTINA.
2. NESSI NOTED THAT ICRC HAS ALREADY SPENT \$400,000 IN FOUR MONTHS FOR ARGENTINA PROGRAM, AND THAT COSTS WERE RUNNING HIGH BECAUSE OF NEED TO MAINTAIN SUBSTANTIAL DELEGATION, WITH SWISS ICRC REPS AND DOCTORS, IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT VISITS TO ALL THE PRISON FACILITIES AND DETAINEES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, IN ADDITION TO RELIEF SUPPLIES. NESSI ALSO SAID ICRC WAS TRYING TO SEE ALL DETAINEES AT EACH FACILITY, RATHER THAN JUST A SELECTION, SINCE IT WAS THEIR EXPERIENCE THAT THE VISITS CONSTITUTE

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A REAL LIFELINE FOR THE PRISONERS, WHO ARE DESPERATE FOR FAMILY NEWS AND CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE. ICRC IS ALSO PROVIDING RELIEF SUPPLIES TO SOME 700 FAMILIES OF DETAINEES (BUT NOT TO DETAINEES THEMSELVES).

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS APPEAL (EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED FORMALLY IN A FEW DAYS) DOES NOT FIT READILY INTO PAST

PATTERNS OF USG SUPPORT FOR ICRC, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY FOR US TO WORK OUT MEANS OF RESPONDING TO IT, IN VIEW OF OUR CONTINUING STRONG CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA. ICRC IS DOING A MAJOR JOB OF CARRYING THE HUMAN RIGHTS BALL ON THE SPOT, BUT THEY URGENTLY NEED THE FINANCIAL MEANS TO CONTINUE TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE. END COMMENT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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